THE MININSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFAFRE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Efforts to develop a vaccine relevant to Indian requirements have been initiated. The HIV-I and II virus characterisation in India has been done and sub type mapping has also been carried out. It has been shown that sub type C of HIV-I is pre-dominantly found in India. Such subtyping is a pre-reguisite for vaccine development.

(c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main strategy consist of:

* Strengthening Promgramme Management capabilities at Central and state levels.
* Creation of awareness among high risk behaviour groups and general public about HIV/AIDS.
* Control of Sexually Transmitted Disease & Condom Promotion.
* Promoting blood safety and rational use of blood and encouraging voluntary blood donation.
* Strengthening capacity for surveillance and diagnosis;
* Extending training in clinical management of HIV/AIDS, and
* Providing drugs for management of opportunistic infections.

Permission for M.D.S. Courses in Dental Colleges

521. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Dental colleges which were accorded Government's permission in 1998 to start MDS courses alongwith the specialities, and dates;

(b) the details of Dental colleges who actually started the MDS course in 1998, alongwith specialities and dates; and

(c) the details of Dental colleges whose applications are pendjng as on date for starting MDS seats, alongwith the latest status and reasons for pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) A statement is annexed at Annexure. [*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 9]

उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय जिलों में बच्चों को पल्स पोलियो ड्राप्स उपलब्ध कराना

522. श्रीमती मालती शर्मा: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में पल्स पोलियो की दवाई उपलब्ध नहीं कराई गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश के पौड़ी, टिहरी और चमोली जिलों के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बच्चों को पल्स पोलियो ड्राप्स दिलाने की व्यवस्था करेगी?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलित एंजिलमलाई): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) (क) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी जिलों के बच्चों को नैमी पोलियो रोग प्रतिरक्षण तथा प्लस पोलियो रोग प्रतिरक्षण उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है। हाल ही में 6 दिसम्बर, 1998 और 17 जनवरी, 1999 को पल्स पोलियो रोगप्रतिरक्षण अभियान इन जिलों में शेष देश की तरह चलाए गए।

Transfer Policy for Ayurvedic Doctor in Delhi

523. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1454, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 1998 and state:

(a) whether Ayurvedic doctors posted in various dispensaries at Delhi are not being transferred regularly, as per transfer policy;

(b) whether a number of doctors remained at a single place from 1986 to 1996, as per the statement of Additional Director, CGHS South Zone;

(c) if so, the reasons for not complying with the transfer policy of Government; and

(d) by when Government propose to transfer such doctors who are placed for more than five years at a single place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) Generally, the Ayurvedic doctors posted in various CGHS dispensaries are transferred as per transfer policy. All the doctors who have completed their prescriber tenure in a CGHS dispensary have been transferred except the doctors posted in Gurgaon. These doctors could not be transferred due to administrative exigencies and in public interest.

Apex Committees to Control Population

524. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Medical Assoication has recommended setting up of an Apex Committee, headed by Prime Minister, to tackle the populatioin crisis; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Taking into consideration suggestions from various Committees and Group of Experts, a draft National Policy has been prepared and submitted for Government's apporoval. This Policy seeks to address all relevant issues for reaching the desired goal of population stabilisation within the shortest possible time.

Scheme for Proper Health Services in Assam

525. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any sheeme to provide proper health services in North-east, particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of programmes to be implemented to achieve the target fixed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) Though health is a State subject, this Ministry has been engaged in assisting States to combat major communicable and non-communicable diseases. Several National Health Programmes are accordingly being implemented as Centrally Sponsored Schemes aimed mainly at reduction of mortality and morbidity caused by major diseases. The major health schemes inter-alia include National programmes for the control/eradication of Malaria, Blindness, Leprosy, Tuberculosis, AIDS and National Family Welfare Programme etc. These Programmes are implemented throughout the country including North East Region.

Central assistance is mainly provided to supplement the resources of the State Government for Control/Eradication of diseases through supply of drugs, establishment of diagnostic facilitities etc.